



Life Course

Negative Outcome

Brief Name

Teen Birth Rate

Indicator

Rate of births to female teens, age 15-19, per 1,000.

Description

This is the rate of live births for females aged 15 to 19.

WI	US	Best	Worst
16.8*	24.2	9.7	52.5
per 1,000		per 1,000	
Year		MA	OK

2014

Numerator

Number of live births to mothers 15 to 19 years old

Denominator

Number of female residents 15 to 19 years old, per 1,000

*Indicates statistically significant difference from the US value at $p < 0.05$.

Importance

The teen birth rate is a negative outcome reflecting likely limited social supports that the teen mom received during her childhood (Kearney, 2012; Kotchick, 2001), and predicts future socioeconomic struggles such as unemployment and lower education (Bissell, 2000). Children born to teen parents are at risk of emotional, behavioral, and socioeconomic difficulties (Lehr, 2016). Teen pregnancy is also correlated with risky sexual behavior and contracting sexually transmitted infections (Kotchick, 2001). Preventing teen pregnancy is one of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) top priorities.

Limitations

Planned pregnancies are not differentiated from unplanned pregnancies.

This metric captures only live births; abortions, stillbirths, or spontaneous abortions are not included.

Source

United States Department of Health and Human Services (US DHHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics, Natality public-use data 2007-2014, on CDC WONDER Online Database, February 2016. Accessed at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/natality-current.html>. For additional information about birth patterns in the US, see http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr64/nvsr64_12.pdf. Kearney, Melissa S., and Phillip B. Levine. "Why is the teen birth rate in the United States so high and why does it matter?." The Journal of Economic Perspectives, 26.2 (2012): 141-166. Kotchick, Beth A., et al. "Adolescent sexual risk behavior: A multi-system perspective." Clinical Psychology Review, 21.4 (2001): 493-519. Bissell, Mary. "Socio-economic outcomes of teen pregnancy and parenthood: A review of the literature." The Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality, 9.3 (2000): 191. Lehr, Marijane, et al. "Parenting Stress, Child Characteristics, and Developmental Delay from Birth to Age Five in Teen Mother-Child Dyads." Journal of Child and Family Studies, 25.3 (2016): 1035-1043.